

**Division 1:  
Prehospital  
Environment**

**Section 4. Medical Terminology**



<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>CONTENT OUTLINE</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>The student must have successfully completed the following sections prior to participating in this section:</p> <p>Section 1. Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Section 2. EMS Systems</p> <p>Section 3. Medical/Legal Considerations</p>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>I. Medical Terminology</p> <p>II. Prefixes and Suffixes</p> <p>III. Medical Dictionary</p> <p>IV. Appendix A: Handout Medical Terminology</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>At the completion of this section, the student will be able to:</p> <p>1.4.1 Define and contrast medical terms</p> <p>1.4.2 Identify various medical terms given one or more anatomical parts of the body.</p> <p>1.4.3 Identify common medical abbreviations.</p> <p>1.4.4 Identify common root words and determine their meaning.</p> <p>1.4.5 Identify and define common prefixes and suffixes.</p> <p>1.4.6 Locate one or more medical terms in a medical dictionary.</p>

**TOPIC****CONTENT OUTLINE**

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**Medical Terminology**

- A. Needed to understand what is said in class
- B. Needed to communicate with:
  - 1. Doctors
  - 2. Nurses
  - 3. Emergency Medical Technician Intermediates and Paramedics
- C. Used in international language

**Prefixes and Suffixes**

- A. Prefixes
  - 1. Beginning of words
  - 2. Examples:
    - a. A = without or lack of, e.g., apnea = without breath
    - b. Derma = skin, e.g., dermatitis = inflammation of skin
    - c. Macro = large, e.g., macroblast = abnormally large cell
- B. Suffixes
  - 1. Ends of words
  - 2. Examples:
    - a. Cyte = cell, e.g., leukocyte = white cell
    - b. Ectomy = cutting out, e.g., tonsillectomy = cutting out of tonsils
    - c. Phasia = speech, e.g., aphasia = loss of speech power
- C. If basic prefixes and suffixes are known, medical terminology becomes less difficult
- D. Root words

**Medical Dictionary**

- A. Exercise: discussion of selected words
  - 1. Pronunciation
  - 2. Spelling
  - 3. Definition
  - 4. Subtopics
  - 5. Medical synonyms
  - 6. Word variation
  - 7. Capital letters
- B. Contents and use of the appendix
  - 1. Glossary
  - 2. Signs and symbols

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## Appendix A

### Medical Terminology

### Common Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
aa	of each
ad lib	as much as desired
aq	water
ASA; APC	aspirin, phenacetin and codeine
b.i.d.	twice a day
BP	blood pressure
CA	cancer
c	with
CAD	coronary artery disease
CBC	complete blood count
cc	cubic centimeter (equal to ml)
C.C. or C/C	chief complaint
CCU	coronary care unit
CHF	congestive heart failure
c/o	complains of
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CPR	cardiopulmonary resuscitation
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CVA	cerebrovascular accident
CVP	central venous pressure
D.C.	discontinue
DOA	dead on arrival
DOE	dyspnea on exertion
Dx	diagnosis
EEG	electroencephalogram
EKG, ECG	electrocardiogram
ER/ED	emergency room/emergency department
ETOH	alcohol
fl	fluid
Fx	fracture
GB	gall bladder
GI	gastrointestinal
Gm.	gram
gr.	grain
GU	genitourinary
h. hr.	hour
H. (H)	hypodermic
Hb. Hgb	hemoglobin
Hct.	hematocrit

H & H	hemoglobin and hematocrit
Hg	mercury
Hx	history
H & P	history and physical
IC	intracardiac
ICU	intensive care unit
IM	intramuscular
IV	intravenous
L	liter
LOC	level of consciousness
MAE	moves all extremities
mEq	Milliequivalent
mg, mgm	milligram
MI	myocardial infarction
MICU	mobile intensive care unit
	medical intensive care unit
ml	milliliter
MS	morphine sulfate
MS	multiple sclerosis
NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	sodium bicarbonate
NPO	nothing by mouth
NTG	nitroglycerin
O <sub>2</sub>	oxygen
OB	obstetrics
O.D.	overdose
O.R.	operating room
p	after
p.c.	after meals
P.E.	physical exam
p.o. or PND	by mouth
pt.	patient
PT	physical therapy
PTA	prior to admission
PERL	pupils equal and react to light
q	every
q.h.	every hour
q.i.d.	four times a day
qtt	drop
RBC	red blood cells
RHD	rheumatic heart disease
R/O	rule out
Rx	take; treatment
ROM	range of motion
s	without
S.C., S.Q.	subcutaneous

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SICU	surgical intensive care unit
S.L.	sublingual
S.O.B.	shortness of breath
ss	half
stat.	immediately
SubQ	subcutaneous
t.i.d.	three times a day
TPR	temperature, pulse, respiration
V.S.	vital signs
WBC	white blood cells
W/	with
WNL	within normal limits
y.o.	year old



## Appendix A

### Medical Terminology

Prefixes	Meaning	Example
a-, an-	without, lack of	apnea—without breath; anemia—lack of blood
2 ab-	away from	abnormal—away from the normal
3 abdomi(n)	abdomen	abdominal—pertaining to abdomen
4 acr-	pertaining to extremity	acromegaly—enlargement of extremity
5 ad-	to, toward	adhesion—something stuck to
6 aden-	pertaining to gland	adenitis—inflammation of gland
7 ana-	up, back, again	anastomosis—joining of two parts
8 angio-	blood vessel	angiogram—study of vessels
9 ante-	before, forward	antenatal—occurring or formed before birth
10 anti-	against, opposed to	antipyretic—against fever
11 arter-	artery	arteriogram—study of arteries
12 arthro-	pertaining to joint	arthroscopy—inspection of joint
13 auto-	self	auto-intoxication—poisoning by a toxin generated within the body
14 bi-	two	bilateral—both sides
15 blast-	germ or cell	blastoma—a true tumor of cells
16 bleph-	pertaining to eyelid	blepharotomy—surgical cutting of an eyelid
17 bio-	life	biology—study of life
18 brady-	slow	bradycardia—slow heart rate
19 calc-; lith-	stone	renal calculi—kidney stone; pyelolithotomy—removal of stone from kidney by surgical incision
20 cardi-	pertaining to heart	cardiography—recording of the movements of the heart
21 cerebr-	brain	cerebral—pertaining to brain
22 cerv-	neck	cervical—pertaining to neck
23 cephal-	pertaining to head	cephalopathy—any disease of the head
24 chole-	pertaining to bile	cholelithiasis—stones in the gall bladder
25 chondr-	cartilage	costochondral—junction of ribs and cartilage
26 circum-	around, about	circumoral—around the mouth
27 contra-	against, opposite	contrastimulant—against stimulating
28 cost-	pertaining to rib	costal margin—margin of lower limits of ribs
29 cyan-	blue	cyanotic—bluish discoloration
30 cyst-	pertaining to bladder or any fluid containing sac	cystitis—inflammation of urinary bladder
31 cyt-	cell	cytology—study of cells
32 derma-	skin	dermatitis—inflammation of the skin
33 di-	twice, double	diplopia—double vision
34 Dia-	through, completely	diagnosis—knowing completely
35 dys-	with difficulty	dyspnea—difficulty breathing

36.	ecto-	out from	ectopic—out of place
37.	edem-	swelling	edema—swelling
38.	electr-	electricity	electroencephalogram—electric record of brain activity
39.	endo-	within	endometrium—within the uterus
40.	enter-	pertaining to the intestines	enteritis—inflammation of the intestines
41.	epi-	upon, on	epidermis—on the skin
42.	erythro-	red	erythrocyte—red blood cells
43.	exo-	outside	exogenous—produced outside the body
44.	febr-	fever	afebrile—without fever
45.	gastr-	pertaining to the stomach	gastritis—inflammation of the stomach
46.	glyco-	sugar	glycosuria—sugar in urine
47.	gynec-	pertaining to women	gynecology—study of diseases of women
48.	hem-;		
	hemat-	pertaining to blood	hemoglobin—coloring matter of red cells
49.	hemi-	half	hemiplegia—paralysis of one side of the body
50.	hepat-	liver	hepatitis—inflammation of liver
51.	hydr(o)-	water	hydrocele—water tumor of testicle
52.	hyper-	over, excessive in	hyperplasia—excessive formation
53.	hypo-	under, deficient in	hypotension—low blood pressure
54.	hyster-	pertaining to uterus	hysterectomy—removal of the uterus
55.	infra-	below, after	infrascapular—below the scapular bone
56.	inter-	between	intercostal—between ribs
57.	intra-	within	intralobar—within the lobe
58.	iso-	equal	isotonic—having equal tension
59.	later(o)-	side	lateral—pertaining to side
60.	leuk-	pertaining to anything white	leukocyte—white blood cells
61.	macro-	large	macroblast—abnormally large cell
62.	mal-	bad, abdominal disorder	malnutrition—poorly balanced diet
			malaise—general discomfort, unease
63.	mening(o)-	meninges	meningitis—inflammation of meninges
64.	micro-	small	microplasia—dwarfism
65.	mono-	one	monocular—one eye
66.	my-	pertaining to muscle	myoma—muscle tumor
67.	mas(o)-	nose	nasopharynx—pertaining to nose and pharynx
68.	neo-	new	neoplasm—new growth
69.	nephr-	pertaining to kidney	nephrectomy—surgical excision of kidney
70.	neur(o)-	nerve	neurogenic—caused by nerve
71.	olig-	little	oliguria—little outpour of urine
72.	oophor-	pertaining to ovary	oophorectomy—surgical excision of ovary
73.	ophthal-	pertaining to eye	exophthalmos—protruding eyeballs
74.	orchi-	testicle	orchitis—inflammation of testicle
75.	ortho(o)-	straight	orthopnea—unable to breathe lying down

76.	os-	mouth	cervical os—mouth of cervix
77.	osteo-	pertaining to bone	osteoblast—bone cells
78.	ot-	pertaining to ear	otitis media—inflammation of middle ear
79.	para-	by the side of	parathyroids—along side of the thyroid
80.	per-	through	perforation—a breaking through
81.	phago-	to eat	phagocyte—cells that eat debris
82.	pharyng-	throat	pharyngitis—inflammation of pharynx
83.	peri-	surrounding	periosteum—covering of bone
84.	phleb-	vein	phlebitis—inflammation of vein
85.	pneum-	pertaining to lung	pneumococcus—organism causing pneumonia
86.	poly-	many	polycystic—containing many cysts
87.	post-	after, behind	postpartum—after childbirth
88.	pre-	before	prediastolic—before diastole
89.	pro-	before, in front of, forward	prognosis—forecast as to result of disease
90.	plumo-	lung	pulmonary thrombosis—clot in lung
91.	proct-	pertaining to rectum	proctoscopy—inspection of rectum
92.	pseudo-	false	pseudoanemia—condition of paleness without true anemia
93.	psych-	pertaining to the mind	psychiatry—treatment of mental diseases
94.	py-	pertaining to pus	pyorrhea—discharge of pus
95.	pyel-	pertaining to kidney pelvis	pyelitis—inflammation of pelvis of kidney
96.	quadr-	four	quadrilateral—four sides
97.	rhin-	pertaining to nose	rhinitis—inflammation of nose
98.	retro-	backward	retroflexion—bending backward
99.	salping-	pertaining to a tube	salpingectomy—excision of oviduct
100.	sclero-	hard	sclerosis—hardening
101.	semi-	half	semilunar—half-moon, or crescent-shaped
102.	sub-	under, moderately	subacute—moderately sharp
103.	super; supra-	above	supraventricular—above the ventricles
104.	sym-	with, together	symphysis—grow together
105.	tachy-	fast	tachycardia—fast pulse
106.	thorac(o)-	chest	thoracotomy—cutting into chest
107.	trans-	across	transfusion—pour across
108.	tri-	three	tricuspid—having three cusps
109.	uni-	one	unilateral—one sided
110.	vaso-	vessel	vasoconstriction—constriction of vessel

## Appendix A

### Medical Terminology

Suffixes:	Meaning	Example
-algia	pertains to pain	neuralgia—pain along a nerve
2 -asthenia	weakness	myosthenia—muscle weakness
3 -blast	germ of immature cell	myeoblast—bone marrow cell
4. -cele	tumor, hernia	exterocele—hernia of the intestine
5. -centesis	puncturing	thorocentesis—puncturing and drainage of pleural space
6. -cyte	cell	leukocyte—white cell
7. -ectomy	a cutting out	tonsillectomy
8. -emia	blood	anemia
9. -esthesia	sensation	anesthesia—without sensation
10. -genic	causing	carcinogenic—cancer causing
-gram; graph	record	angiogram—record of graph
12. -itis	inflammation	tonsillitis
13. -lysis	gradual decline; weakening	lysis of adhesions
14. -megaly	enlargement of	hepatomegaly—enlargement of liver
15. -ology	science of	biology—science or study of life
16. -ostomy	creation of an opening	gastrostomy—artificial opening
17. -oma	tumor, swelling	neuroma
18. -osis	condition of	psychosis—condition of the mind
19. -paresis	weakness	hemiparesis—one-sided weakness
20. -phagia	eating	polyphagia—excessive eating
21. -plegia	paralysis	hemiplegia—one-sided paralysis
22. -pnea	breathing	apnea—no (or without) breathing
23. -pathy	disease	neuropathy—functional disturbances and/or changes in peripheral nervous systems
24. -phasia	speech	aphasia—loss of speech power
25. -phobia	fear	hydrophobia—fear of water
26. -plasty	repair of; tying of	nephroplasty—suturing up of a kidney
27. -ptosis	falling	enteroptosis—falling of the intestine
28. -rhythmia	rhythm	arrhythmia—variation from normal rhythm
29. -rrhagia	bursting forth	hemorrhage—flowing of blood
30. -rrhaphy	suture of; repair of	herniorrhaphy—repair of a hernia
31. -rrhea	flowing	pyorrhea—discharge of pus
32. -scope	instrument for examination	bronchoscope
33. -scopy	exam by inspection	bronchoscopy—examination of the bronchi through a bronchoscope
34. -taxia	order, arrangement of	ataxia—failure of muscle coordination

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|--------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 35. -trophia | nourishment      | atrophy—wasting                       |
| 36. -uria    | to do with urine | polyuria—excessive secretion of urine |

